

## **ASSABET RIVER NWR WILL BE CLOSING PUFFER POND TO ALL WATER CRAFTS**

As of January 1, 2015 the refuge will be closing Puffer Pond to all public water crafts. This decision is in effort to protect the pristine habitat at the pond from the encroachment of invasive species. The introduction of non-native species has occurred at other locations from water crafts and we are making every effort to prevent this at the Assabet River NWR. In the future the refuge staff plan to procure canoes/kayaks for educational programs at the pond. Puffer Pond is a small area compared to nearby lakes and rivers surrounding the refuge and it does not offer a high quality paddling opportunity for general visitors. The staff have determined the risks for general access paddling outweigh the benefits. The refuge manager is aware this change will cause an inconvenience primarily to anglers, so upon completion of the 15 year Visitor Services Plan further fishing sites will be considered. For questions or concerns regarding this change please contact Kizette, Visitor Services Specialist at [kizette\\_ortizvanger@fws.gov](mailto:kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov) or 978-562-3527 x117.



## Visitor Center will be closed indefinitely on Thursdays starting Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

The Visitor Center at the Assabet River NWR will be closed on Thursdays as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, however it will remain open Friday-Sunday 10am-4pm and will be available for use by other organizations on closed days. The refuge manager has made the decision to close on Thursdays due to low visitation and due to the increasing demands on staff. Closing one of the four open days will allow for staff to more effectively utilize their time working on priority projects and at other refuges within the Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex. For questions or concerns regarding this change please contact Kizette Ortiz-Vanger, Visitor Services Specialist at [kizette\\_ortizvanger@fws.gov](mailto:kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov) or 978-562-3527 x117.

